

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 09591 131706Z

45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 084764

R 131600Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 745

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PA, VT

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN PARAGUAY

REF: ASUNCION 3471

1. DURING SEPT. 13 DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS WITH RANKING VATICAN OFFICIAL, WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTION OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN PARAGUAY BY NOTING THAT WE HAD LEARNED OF PARTICIPATION BY NUMBER OF PARAGUAYAN BISHOPS IN RELIGIOUS CEREMONY HONORING PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S INAUGURATION. SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT SITUATION HAD DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS. PRIOR TO INAUGURATION, ARCHBISHOP OF ASUNCION ROLON AND OTHER RESIDENTIAL BISHOPS HAD DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN CEREMONIES SURROUNDING PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION, BUT THAT ROLON STATED ASUNCION CATHEDRAL WAS AVAILABLE SHOULD ANYONE WISH TO CELEBRATE MASS ON THAT OCCASION. ACCORDING TO VATICAN, APPARENTLY ONLY 84-YEAR-OLD RETIRED ARCHBISHOP MENA WAS WILLING TO PERFORM CEREMONY HONORING STROESSNER. SINCE NUNCIATURE IN ASUNCION STILL VACANT, VATICAN THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY INSULT TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER NOT TO SEND A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR INAUGURATION AND, ACCORDINGLY, NUNCIO ZANINI FROM ARGENTINA WAS DEPUTIZED TO REPRESENT THE POPE ON THAT OCCASION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 09591 131706Z

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER FACT OF ARCHBISHOP MENA CELEBRATING MASS FOR INAUGURATION, WHICH MOREOVER ATTENDED BY BISHOP BENITEZ OF VILLARRICA, MIGHT INDICATE WEAKENING OF PARAGUAYAN BISHOPS' DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN UNITED OPPOSITION TO STROESSNER REGIME, SOURCE SAID HE SERIOUSLY DOUBTED THIS WAS CASE. AS FAR AS VATICAN KNOWS, ALL RESIDENTIAL BISHOPS AGREED ON OPPOSITION TO REGIME AND ONLY A FEW OLDER AUXILIARY BISHOPS SEE ANY UTILITY IN ALTERING THIS POLICY. SOURCE NOTED THAT VATICAN IS DEFINITELY NOT ENCOURAGING PARAGUAYAN EPISCOPATE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH GOP, BUT LEAVING ANY DETERMINATIONS ON THIS LOCAL MATTER ENTIRELY IN HANDS OF PARAGUAYAN BISHOPS. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME09591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VOLPE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730937/aaaabawj.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ASUNCION 3471
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN PARAGUAY
TAGS: PINS, PA, VT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005